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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /109 W
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O 160204Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7088
INFO USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
COMDT USCG WASHDC IMMEDIATE
COMMANDER 7TH CG MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T NASSAU 1338

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS BF
SUBJ: US/BAHAMAS SPINY LOBSTER TALKS

FROM US DELEGATION FOR ARA - ASST SEC ROGERS, OES/OFA W.L. SULLIVAN, L/OES B.H. OXMAN, ARA/CAR T. HUEVNER

COMMERCE PLEASE PASS NMFS - C. BLONDIN

SUMMARY: MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY PRIVATELY ADVISED USDEL CHAIRMAN WALLACE PRIOR TO TODAY'S SESSION OF TALKS THAT GCOB SAW NO BASIS FOR AGREEMENT ON SPINY LOBSTER FISHERY. ADDERLEY SUGGESTED JOINT REPEAT JOINT STATEMENT ON MONDAY STATING THAT TALKS WERE CONCLUDED WITHOUT FINDING BASIS FOR AGREEMENT, BUT PERHAPS SUBJECT TO REOPENING AT LATER TIME. AFTER TODAY'S SHORT SESSION, WHICH ENDED IN RECESS FOR FURTHER STUDY OF SCIENTIFIC GROUP'S REPORT AND WHICH WAS CONDUCTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO
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THE APPARENT BREAKDOWN OF TALKS, WALLACE MET WITH ADDERLEY

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IN PARTLY SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO TRY AGAIN TO KEEP TALKS OPEN. AMBASSADOR WEISS SUBSEQUENTLY MET WITH P. M. PINDLING AND OBTAINED COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS ON MONDAY, BUT WITH NO COMMITMENT TO TRY TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT, ONLY TO CONTINUE EVALUATION OF WHETHER THERE WAS ANY BASIS FOR NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY. WEISS/PINDLING TALK REPORTED SEPTEL.

1. U.S. AND BAHAMIAN SCIENTIFIC SPECIALISTS MET IN LENGTHY SESSION THURSDAY AND PREPARED AGREED REPORT NOTING SOME EVIDENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL LOBSTER FISHING ON PARTS OF BAHAMIAN BANKS, BUT POSSIBILITY FOR INCREASING SUSTAINABLE LOBSTER YIELDS FROM BANKS OVERALL.

2. IN SPITE OF ENCOURAGING SCIENTIFIC REPORT, ADDERLEY MET PRIVATELY WITH CHAIRMAN OF USDEL WALLACE ON FRIDAY MORNING, IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO SCHEDULED NEGOTIATING SESSION, AND DECLARED BAHAMIAN INTENTION TO BREAK OFF NEGOTIATIONS. ADDERLEY REPORTED BAHAMIANS HAD REVIEWED U.S. PROPOSAL AT HIGH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND CONCLUDED THERE WAS NO POSSIBLE WAY IT COULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR ANY AGREEMENT THAT WOULD BE POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE TO GCOB. ADDERLEY PROPOSED AN IMMEDIATE JOINT U.S.-BAHAMIAN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT DISCUSSIONS HAD CONCLUDED WITHOUT FINDING A BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH HE SUGGESTED THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT INDICATE POSSIBILITY FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT AT AN INDEFINITE FUTURE TIME. TO ALLOW TIME TO FURTHER PROBE BAHAMIAN POSITION AS WELL AS LIKELY EFFECTS PROPOSED BREAK-OFF OF NEGOTIATIONS, WALLACE PROPOSED FRIDAY NEGOTIATING SESSION PROCEED AS SCHEDULED WITH REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC REPORT, WITH ALL DISCUSSION BETWEEN FULL DELEGATIONS OF TALKS BREAKDOWN DELAYED UNTIL MONDAY. ADDERLEY AGREED AND UNEVENTFUL REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC REPORT FOLLOWED. JOINT PRESS RELEASE AT END OF SESSION STATED TALKS RECESSED TO PERMIT BOTH DELEGATIONS TO FURTHER REVIEW SCIENTIFIC GROUP'S REPORT.

3. FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT MEMBERS OF USDEL AND EMBASSY, WALLACE ARRANGED SECOND PRIVATE MEETING WITH ADDERLEY IN EARLY AFTERNOON. ADDERLEY REAFFIRMED THAT HE SAW NO CONCEIVABLE BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT BECAUSE U.S. PROPOSAL HAD SIMPLY QUOTE TOO NARROW A BASIS UNQUOTE. HE

APPEARED COMPLETELY UNINTERESTED IN ANY CONCEIVABLE MODIFICATIONS THAT THE U.S. MIGHT BE ABLE TO DEVELOP. HE NOTED THAT THE TALKS MIGHT CONTINUE THROUGH WEDNESDAY IF THE U.S. THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR SAKE OF APPEARANCES, BUT THAT THESE WOULD BE NEGOTIATIONS ONLY IN FORM.

4. RESULTS OF SECOND MEETING WITH ADDERLEY LEFT RATHER STRONG IMPRESSION WITH USDEL THAT BAHAMAS HAD NEVER INTENDED TO ENGAGE

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IN ANY SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON LOBSTER WITH U.S., BUT WERE SIMPLY SEEKING BASIS TO ABRUPTLY DENY ALL FUTURE ACCESS TO LONG-STANDING U.S. LOBSTER FISHERY OFF BAHAMAS.

5. FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN DEL AND EMB, AMBASSADOR WEISS CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER PINDLING TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF GCOB POSITION AND DETERMINE IF ANYTHING COULD BE DONE TO REVERSE ADDERLEY'S POSITION, OR AT LEAST TO PERMIT CONTINUANCE OF SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WHICH MIGHT ULTIMATELY LEAD TO FINDING A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT. PINDLING AGREED THAT WE WOULD MEET AGAIN AT LEAST ON MONDAY TO CONTINUE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS AIMED PRIMARILY AT EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY FOR A SHORT-TERM AGREEMENT. THE FULL CONVERSATION AND AMBASSADOR'S EVALUATION IS BEING SENT SEPTEL.

6. DELEGATION'S FULL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION AND DEPT. CONSIDERATION WILL BE SEPTEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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